



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**BLM** news  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **AUGUST STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING CANCELED**

The Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) meeting scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, August 11-12, 2003, has been canceled, reports U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District Andrews Resource Area Field Manager Karla Bird. The SMAC will reconvene on September 15-16, 2003, in Bend, Oregon, and will spend the majority of the meeting discussing access to private inholdings through the Steens Mountain Wilderness. Further information on the September agenda will be released as the meeting date approaches.

At the June SMAC meeting, the council spent time discussing the *Preliminary* Draft of the Andrews/Steens Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) and made recommendations on the Wilderness Management portion regarding camping in Research Natural Areas, party sizes, pack stock, and historic uses on Steens Mountain. The meeting also produced a subcommittee to gather information on inholder access. SMAC members Harland Yriarte (private landowner representative), Hoyt Wilson (grazing permittee representative), and Richard Benner (no financial interest representative), along with a contracted facilitator, will talk to landowners affected, research case law, and analyze the Wilderness Act; the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000, Public Law 106-399; and BLM policies to obtain information for presentation at the September meeting. Their findings will be used to help the SMAC make an innovative and/or unique recommendation to BLM regarding inholder access. Information on inholder access obtained through public scoping will also be provided to the SMAC.

##### MORE #####

The Draft Andrews/Steens RMP will be available for public comment near the end of September and will provide a 90-day comment period for those interested. The BLM encourages all members of the public to submit comments during that period.

*Draft* minutes of future SMAC meetings will be available on the Steens Mountain Web site at <http://www.or.blm.gov/Steens>. Visit the site periodically to check for updates.

For further information on the SMAC, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office at 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon, or call (541) 573-4400, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.